

Hagens, W.E.

[Chicago, IL]

1918

Nov. 25, 1918

Mr. W. E. Hagan's
5002 Blackstone Ave.
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Sir:-

The photographs you sent us have proved very satisfactory in serving to assist in identifying the three coins, which are as follows:-

1. A Zecchino of Florence struck in 1502
2. A Venetian coin struck under the Doge Marc Anton Giustiniani (1682-1688)
3. A Byzantine struck at Constantinople during the reign of Anastasius I (491-518 A.D.)

None of these coins are rare and their being mounted as spoons has destroyed what numismatic value they might otherwise have. Mounting inexpensive coins in this manner for sale to tourists has been a common practice among Italian jewelers.

Sincerely yours,

Curator

5002 Blackstone Avenue
Chicago November 30, 1918.

Mr Howland Wood
Curator American Numismatic Society
New York

Dear Sir:--

Your line of 25th inst has reached me and I am greatly obliged for its most satisfactory contents as it confirms my suspicion regarding the Byzantine coin.

Regarding the destruction of numismatic value which the coins possess, if not mounted:-- It is a comparatively simple matter to dismount and restore them to original shape and size without in any way marring them. When having them put in their present shape some thirty five or more years ago I had this point particularly in mind, and then made practical demonstration that it could be done. If they have a considerably greater value in that shape it can be done.

In any event it is my purpose to offer the set of eight pieces for sale in the form which may be most desirable to the purchaser.

Of three of the coins you know. The other five are as follows:--

SIGISMUND, Hungary
JOHN, Hungary, coin dated 1540
FERDINAND, Hungary and Bohemia, coin dated, 1544
LOUIS XIII, France, coin dated, 1642
FRID AUGUST, Saxony, coin dated, 1764. This coin is
bullion, all of the others being gold.

The extreme convexity of the coins is slightly less than $5/32$ of an inch.

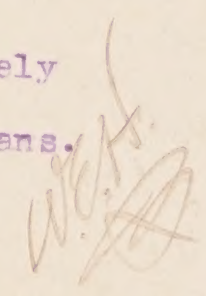
I will send you photographs of the three Transylvania coins within the next day or two.

If the coins are replaced in their original condition what numismatic value will they have? This contemplates that they will be in good condition-not marred in any way by their experience in present shape.

Again thanking you for your kind interest and the most helpful information given, I am,

Most Sincerely

W E Hagans.



December 3rd, 1918.

Mr. W. E. Hagens,
5002 Blackstone Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter at hand. As near as we can tell none of the coins that you mention in your letter have any especial value over their bullion value. This Society does not attempt to give absolute values of coins as prices are always governed according to condition, circumstances, &c. It is our judgment that you could probably get more for these properly displayed somewhere as curiosities rather than as coins to some collector.

I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

Curator.